

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.3045, As Amended**

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TO:	The Honorable Hugh Leatherman, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Beth Campbell		
DATE:	May 8, 2007	SBD:	2007371

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AUTHOR:	Representative Cooper	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	23-51-10
SUBJECT:	Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment Act of 2007		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:  
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:  
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

House Bill 3045, as amended, would require the General Assembly to appropriate funds annually for grants that must be awarded to volunteer and combination fire departments. The grants must be administered by the State Fire Marshal in conjunction with a peer review panel.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

Section 23-51-20 of the Bill requires the General Assembly to appropriate each year not more than \$3,000,000 in General Funds for grants to eligible fire departments. Each grant shall not exceed \$30,000, and no matching money will be required. The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association shall be awarded 3% of the \$3,000,000, or \$90,000, which will be used to establish and maintain a recruitment and retention program for volunteer firefighters.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal would require 1.50 new FTEs for 1.00 Administrative Assistant and 0.50 of a Grants Administrator position at an annual cost to the General Fund of \$90,000 for salary, fringe and other operating expenses.

Recapitulation

House Bill 3045, as amended, would have a total cost to the General Fund of no more than \$3,090,000 and 1.50 FTEs.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget